THE WOMAN'S
DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

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A LIBEL ACTION AGAINST US

ARMY CONTRACTOR BRINGS LIBEL ACTION AGAINST THE "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT."

The W.S.F. is deeply interested in improving the conditions of women workers and in abolishing sweating amongst both men and women. As the organ of the Federation, THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT has always opened its columns to cases of injustice towards workers and by its outspoken championship has secured many improvements.

Some time ago the women employed in making soldiers' brushes came to us for help. They were grossly underpaid, were obliged to work very long hours, and even to take their work home with them after they left the factory. Their eyes were red and swollen, and their fingers injured with wiring in the bristles. By publishing the facts in THE DREADNOUGHT and communicating them to the Government Departments concerned, we managed to secure an increase in rates from 1s. 1d. per dozen, as they then were, to 1s. 11d. per dozen.

At a factory where the workers were engaged in preparing food for the troops we secured a reduction of hours and improved conditions, together with an increase of pay, through publishing the facts in THE DREADNOUGHT.

At a munition factory the women were searched by men, and there were other grievances. We secured the abolition of a number of injustices and the appointment of a welfare mistress.

At another firm women were using poisonous dope, and obliged to take their meals in the room where they worked. We secured a number of improvements, including the provision of a mess-room. It is said that poisonous dope is not now used in the factory.

These are but four out of many instances.

In regard to one of the cases of which we published facts, we have received a solicitor's letter saying that a libel action is being brought against the proprietors and printers of THE DREADNOUGHT. Although we have every reason to believe that the statements made in the paragraph complained of are literally true, damages are claimed.

Our readers will appreciate the importance of winning this action, for should the firm secure damages against us, others may be encouraged to stifle criticism by taking action in order to prevent the exposure of injurious conditions.

Libel actions are very costly, and one must pay heavy fees if one means to win. We therefore appeal to our readers to subscribe to the special fund which we propose to raise in order to provide the necessary fees and to indemnify THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT against any cost which the action that is being brought against us may entail.

Donations for this purpose should be marked "Libel Action Fund," and sent to the Editor of THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

FROM AUSTRIA

The Austrian Social Democratic Party urges the Austrian Government to prove its good faith by formal promises to evacuate Serbia and Montenegro if the Italian Government will evacuate Austrian territory.

The Socialists of every nation should do the same.

The Workmen's Association of Vienna has held a great peace meeting.

A WOMAN'S JOB

Tired Housewife: "Oh! thanks."

THIS EVENING, SATURDAY 13th
AT 8 P.M.

W.S.F. NEW YEAR DANCE
AT
BOW BATHS ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Speeches by—
REV. H. DUNNICO
GEORGE LANSBURY
and SYLVIA PANKHURST

CONCERT

FANCY DRESS OPTIONAL. Refreshments at Popular Prices.
TICKETS 6d. EACH from 400 Old Ford Road, E.

FOREIGN NEWS

The "Svenska Dagbladet" reports that the shortage of food in Russia is growing, and the dissatisfaction of the masses is steadily increasing. In the suburbs of Petrograd collisions between civilians and Cossacks are frequent, and though strikers are immediately sent to the trenches, strikes are common. Both in town and country districts there is a general War-weariness. The present position in Russia awakes the belief that we may expect this startling news from Russia in the near future. In spite of all denial, it is clear that the present situation cannot last.

* * * *

At a meeting of the Poets' Club in Moscow, Maxim Gorki, speaking on the future of Russia, said "The prospects for a better future for our people are now more hopeless than before the War. We are cut off from the world by a wall of iron and steel. The coming winter will bring us misery, sufferings, and starvation. Rich England, which could relieve our economic trouble is inactive, and gives us insignificant help on conditions which are both humiliating and shameful." He also referred to the sad political and economic future of Russia after the War. Reaction in Russia grows more and more threatening. For Russia the War cannot end happily; one should strive to make peace.

* * * *

The Swiss "Berner Tagwacht" complains that the import and export restrictions imposed by the Entente and by the Central Powers greatly affect Switzerland. Hundreds of barrels of fish and cheese are kept in Holland and cannot pass to Switzerland. On the other side, the import of embroidery to Germany has been suddenly stopped. The Austrian Government has prohibited the import of goods which are not indispensable which affects the principal Swiss industries, such as watchmaking, chocolate and embroidery. In 1915 Switzerland exported 12,000,000 francs worth of these goods to Austria. The Entente and the Central Powers, says the Swiss newspaper, are equally brutal in their disregard of human rights.

THE ELECTION IN AMERICA: By Reginald Wright Kauffman

[*We strongly disagree with this article.*]

It is an ill time for any American to talk of progress to an English audience. Our presidential elections are just over, and those Americans who have the vote have, taking results as a whole, registered a not uncertain decision against progress.

They have elected one woman to Congress;

But——

They have defeated for the presidency Mr. Hughes, the candidate that declared unreservedly for Woman's Suffrage, and have elected to the presidency Mr. Wilson, the candidate whose words have always evaded this issue, and whose actions have always opposed it.

Mr. Hughes, the Republican, advocated full preparation for war, and, therefore, against war—declared that he would not tolerate such injuries as Germany had inflicted upon this country under the first Wilson administration—announced that he would protect American lives and interests—said that he would fight if honour again demanded it. And the American voters defeated him.

Mr. Wilson, the Democrat, having opposed all preparedness, ended by mildly advocating preparations such as will invite war and leave us at any enemy's mercy. Having so far kept us out of war by submitting to humiliations that insult every American, he declared that he would continue his policy of pusilanimous pacificism. Having thrown away more American lives than were lost in our war with Spain, he announced that his regard for our lives and interests would in future be of the same quality as that with which he had in the past made us acquainted. Having once been "too proud to fight," he tacitly admitted that honour could not now make him do what honour had failed to make him do in the past. And the American voters elected him.

"All is lost but honour," said Francis I.

"Nothing lost but honour," says the cheerful Mr. Wilson.

There is no blinking the facts. In Mr. Hughes' place, Colonel Roosevelt might have won, because he has the power to direct a campaign that, for all his worth, Mr. Hughes lacks. Now we will infallibly elect the Colonel in 1920, when Wilsonism has made the national burden almost too much for any one man to bear. But the present issue is plain. Wilson, a schoolmaster that used to defend Machiavelli to his pupils, took advantage of the shortsightedness of our wage-earners, prosperous through a munitions trade that must collapse at this war's end, and appealed to the people on the base ground that he "put money in our pockets and kept us out of the war"; and, in order to have four more years of the same thing, we re-elected him.

We Americans have a hypocritical habit of post-election piffling. We call one another rogues or fools up to the closing of the polls and then, when the count is in, the defeated ones like to say: "Now that's over, we'll all work together along the lines that the victors have laid down." Of course this is rot. The man that was a rogue or a fool—the policies that were knavish or foolish—on November 6th, are not changed in character by the mere dawn of November 8th. If a majority has elected a suffrage-dodger and a peace-at-the-price-of-dishonour man, that does not prove that anti-suffrage and dishonourable peace are right and best; it proves only that the majority temporarily want them. We all know that our post-election goodwill is a lie, and we never let it endure longer than the next session of Congress anyhow.

On the question of national woman's suffrage, therefore, and on the questions of America's place in the present world-conflict—not to speak of the country's dangers for the near future—there is but one attitude for a sane American reasonably to take. Being a good Episcopalian, I pray every Sunday morning for "the President of the United States, and all others in authority"—with a mental reservation in regard to the Kaiser. That is, I pray for Mr. Wilson. I pray God to give Mr. Wilson a back-bone; I pray God to work a miracle. But I have small hope that God really will work it.

In State action—*i.e.*, by the legislatures or electorate of the separate States of the Union—Woman's Suffrage has a big chance; but for the next four years it has small chance in federal action. In federal action the national dignity and honour have almost no chance at all. It may be that President Wilson will basely betray the base sentiment that has elected him; that, having secured a second term by truckling to our lowest interests, and knowing that a third term is traditionally impossible through any means, he may look to posterity and take counsel of necessity—may, in short, break away from his supporters: our history has shown that re-elected Democratic Presidents do not get along very well with the representatives of their party in Congress. But beyond that there is small hope immediately ahead. The real hope (and I note it here only because all England expects an American to conclude everything hopefully) is that the progress of the War will show us Americans the fallacy of our prosperity, and awaken us to righteousness by the exceedingly practical method which demonstrates that broad honour, as well as mere honesty, is the best policy not only in affairs personal, but in national affairs as well.

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Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

WE ALL WANT PEACE

We all want Peace. But we must not weep for it in the Slough of Despond; we must be out striving for it on the heights of desire and determination.

The War advocates, those who can see no ideal higher than that of a military victory, and who cannot and will not realise its wicked futility, are devoting all their energies to secure it. Their recruiting campaigns; their flag days; their economy and war loan advertisements; their very spy hunts bear perpetual testimony to this fact.

We Pacifists must be still more constant, still more zealous in our propaganda, devoting every available moment to spreading the Peace ideal. We must work for it more strenuously than men toil for their daily bread. Not more guns, but Peace only will save the lives of the soldiers. We must watch and strive for the lives on the battlefield with the devotion which women bring to nursing those whom they love in the bitter struggle with approaching death. When our children are ill, we do not say to Death: "Come, for I cannot hinder you. I am too heavily burdened already; I cannot undertake another duty; I am too ignorant and weak; my poverty is too grievous a handicap; I must leave the struggle with you to those who are more fortunate."

We do not say these things when our children are ill at home; we must not say them in regard to the War.

In our struggle with death and disease at home it is our love of the human life under our care which inspires us; so let it be in our struggle to end this War and to prevent the possibility of another.

When we are alone and hear the still, small voice of conscience, we know that in our own hearts are to be found all the impulses which produce the sins we condemn in others, all the virtues we admire. By the power of the good and evil that is in us individuals and nations are to us much as we make them. Pacifists of all nations preach this, calling the Governments of the world to put the doctrine into practice, to fling behind them suspicion, greed, self-righteousness, and the desire for domination and revenge. Pacifists call on the Governments of the belligerent nations to say to their opponents: "Come, let us reason together," urging that if the invitation be given in the right spirit, it will be responded to with goodwill. But the duty of contributing towards the sum of human welfare falls upon all of us, not even the feeblest and poorest can escape it. Let the Pacifists say to their fellows, with the faith which they desire to be shown by statesmen: "Come, let us urge our Governments to make peace." When the call is made to the people with the requisite confidence, earnestness, and passion, the response will be overwhelming, and the popular will to peace for which a section of every belligerent Government is waiting, will force the ending of the War.

Pacifists call on the belligerent Governments to state their terms; but ought not the Pacifists to define more clearly the terms which they desire the Governments to offer? Is it not time that an exhaustive survey of the question and the production of detailed terms should be undertaken by those who realise that it is the clash of opposing capitalist interests which has produced this war, and which will lead to further wars unless the system is changed?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

LEADERS AND MINISTERS ON PEACE AND WAR

Mr. W. A. Appleton, secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions, has been expressing to a representative of the "New York World" the view that "neither now nor in the future" will the workers of Great Britain "tolerate association with the German working-class movement unless the German working-class movement immediately and forcibly repudiates the dastardly acts of the German Government."

After the war the working-class movements of all the belligerent nations will begin repudiating the dastardly acts of their own Governments. After the war, perhaps Mr. Appleton may awake to the wisdom of building the international solidarity of the working class.

MR. HENDERSON.

Mr. Henderson, the Labour member of the War Cabinet, has also been giving his views to the American Press. He is reported to have said, "We do not suggest that every form of Militarism is wrong," but it must be used "in the right spirit," "in a right way," and "for right ends." Can Mr. Henderson sincerely assert that French, British, Russian and Italian Militarism is always used "in the right spirit, in the right way and for right ends"? We think not.

He is further alleged to have said that "Labour will be satisfied by such a peace as ends the existence of a great unmoralised military Power," and that this can only be secured (i.) when that Power is controlled by a Government "which has an adequate regard to moral constraints," or (ii.) when that Power is "so weakened as to cease to be dangerous." To secure the Government of moral constraint in Germany he says it is necessary "not merely that those who have felt the suffering of war should feel the horror, but that the succeeding generations should do so also." These are hard sayings. Perhaps they are true of every belligerent nation. Certainly if they are true of one they are true of all, for all have thrown themselves into the War, and all must bear a share of the blame for bringing it about. But they are harsh sayings, and there is a vindictive and self-righteous ring about them which is saddening and discouraging. Mr. Henderson is further alleged to have said that "the workers of Britain are determined that never again shall a Christian nation be under the yoke of the Turk," and that "this country would never tolerate" the escape of Turkish atrocities from "signal punishment." The following passages from a manifesto which Mr. Henderson issued in conjunction with Keir Hardie on August 3rd, 1914, the very eve of War, contrast strongly with his present-day utterances:—

"Whatever may be the rights and wrongs of the sudden crushing attack made by the militarist Empire of Austria upon Servia, it is certain that the workers of all countries likely to be drawn into the conflict must strain every nerve to prevent their Governments from committing them to war. . . . Hold vast demonstrations against war in every industrial centre. . . . The success of Russia at the present day would be a curse to the world. . . . Already by secret agreements and understandings of which the democracies of the civilised world know only by rumour, steps are being taken which may fling us all into the fray. Workers, stand together therefore for peace. Combine and conquer the militarist enemy and the self-seeking imperialists to-day, once and for all."

BARNES DOES NOT KNOW.

Mr. Barnes, the Labour Pensions Minister, at the Browning Hall, spoke more mildly than his colleagues. He said that he welcomed President Wilson's appeal to the belligerents to state their terms of peace. He urged that we should "cease to talk to the President in rhetorical terms," and should tell him "in a precise matter-of-fact proposition what we want." We should leave him "under no misapprehension as to our general objects, positive or negative," and assure him that we have "no idea in this war of increasing our territory, or power, or anything of that kind." Mr. Barnes added that he *thought* our terms would be:—

The clearing out of the Germans from Belgium and the invaded territories of the small peoples, reparation to them and the subscribing by Germany to some document of peace carrying with it a significance that would be backed up by the international moral force of the whole world.

Mr. Barnes *"thinks,"* but he does not *know*, what the peace terms are. How has he found it in his heart to take office under a War Government whose objects are hidden from him? He says nothing of Russia's demand for Constaniople and the Dardanelles and the agreement that the Allies shall share Asia Minor. Would not these be territorial gains?

IS HE BECOMING A PACIFIST?

Lord Buckmaster, the ex-Lord Chancellor, is reported to have said at Keighley on January 6th that we are entitled to expect of our Government that all peace proposals should be made public at the earliest possible moment, and that no proposal should be summarily rejected, but that each should receive a full and carefully considered answer. Is this mere talk or is Lord Buckmaster to be the first member of the late Government to dissent openly from "the fight to a finish" doctrine?

A CYNICAL EXPOSURE

The Note to Greece in which the Italian Government dissociates itself from the Allied demands that King Constantine shall release and indemnify the friends of Venezelos, and Turkey's declaration of independence, is the subject of a leading article of surprising and cynical frankness in the *Manchester Guardian*. The *Guardian* expresses, without any sort of rebuke, the view that Italy has dissociated herself from the Allies in this matter because, if Greece were to join the Allies, her claims by way of reward would clash with Italy's own plans. The *Guardian* explains that Italy "hopes to get her reward by securing the domination of the Adriatic and by establishing herself firmly in the Eastern Mediterranean." As for Turkey, the *Guardian* suggests that Germany, in order to secure peace, is prepared to permit the Allies to find "satisfaction and compensation" by dividing up Turkey. Surely, it might be thought, the chivalrous and disinterested Allies, who are fighting this War for freedom, would refuse to entertain such a disgraceful bargain; surely they would protest, with Mr. Barnes:—

"We have no idea of increasing our territory, or power, or anything of that kind."

The *Guardian* does not take this view; its editor says:—

"What more prudent than that England should think out her Turkish problem, and get, what she manifestly has not got now, clear and precise ideas as to her Imperial necessities in that region."

And yet we are expected to believe that this is not a capitalist-Imperialist war of aggression, and that we are fighting for freedom merely!

"SOUL AND SYMPATHY"

Mr. John Hodge, the Labour Minister, has been promising to put "soul and sympathy" into the Labour Exchanges. He has undertaken a big task? He says employers have begun to realise that—

"It pays to treat men, women and children, as well as cattle, kindly."

Has Mr. Hodge forgotten that the workers demand equality?

A BISHOP'S HYPOCRISY

Oh, we are weary, weary of this hypocrisy! The Bishop of Manchester, preaching in the Manchester Cathedral, said: "We are fighting for the principle that the kingdom of God is not to be established on earth by the might of any earthly monarchy, but by the brotherhood of nations resting upon the Fatherhood of God in Jesus Christ." And yet so-called Christian nations are preparing to steal the material possession of the poor Infidel because he is likely to be too weak to defend himself!

SUFFRAGE IN CONGRESS

The question of giving nation-wide votes for women will shortly be voted on by the American Parliament as the Federal Suffrage Amendment was reported to the House on December 14th.

* * * *

The Federal Suffrage Amendment has been previously reported from the Judiciary Committee to the House of Representatives six times since its inception, as follows: 1883, favourable majority, 1884, adverse majority, favourable minority; 1886, favourable minority; 1890, favourable majority; 1894, adverse majority; 1914, without recommendation.

* * * *

Ex-Senator C. A. Towne, of Washington, D.C., speaking at a Democratic function in Washington, said that but for the War the Democrats would have been beaten. If they wished to remain in office they must consolidate their gains in the West, and one of the most effective means of doing this would be to pass the federal suffrage amendment for the nation-wide enfranchisement of women.

* * * *

The United States Senate on December 19th, passed a resolution by 54 votes to 15 in favour of equal suffrage regardless of sexes in the District of Columbia on any prohibition referendum. The resolution to take a prohibition referendum was, however, lost on a tie of 38 to 38. The question will again be voted on.

* * * *

The American "Woman's Journal" reports that a referendum has been taken in Denmark as to whether the Danish possessions in the West Indies should be sold to the United States. Women have voted side by side with men on this question.

WOMEN AND A NEW ORDER

The "Daily News" states that the King has been advised by the Government to create a new Imperial Honour for those who have rendered distinguished service to the Empire, and that it is being considered whether it may be conferred on women as well as men.

We again urge that women shall be given votes, not good conduct prizes. A bigger share in the snobbery and jobbery of the world will not bring to women any real or lasting good.

* * * *

Resolution passed by the Auckland Women's International League, October 24th, 1916:—

"We, the members of the Women's International League, Auckland, strongly support our sisters in England in their demand for Adult Suffrage in Great Britain.—A. D'ARCY HAMILTON (President-; M. A. BENWELL (Vice-President); E. MARTIN (Vice-President); E. A. TILLEY (Corr. Sec.); E. G. BEARD (Rec. Sec.)

Get the Adult Suffrage Resolution passed:

This meeting calls on the Government to introduce, not a Registration Bill, but a Franchise Bill to give a vote to every woman and man over 21.

The Congress of the French Socialist Party has revealed the fact that the Pacifist minority numbers 1,407, against the majority of 1,537, there being twenty abstentions. The new Executive numbers thirteen members of the majority and eleven of the minority. M. Hervé, who has displayed a conspicuous Jingoism, was not re-elected. The Congress unanimously passed a vote of thanks to President Wilson and the Swiss Government for their intervention in favour of peace.

IS IT NOTHING TO YOU?

By H. M. SWANWICK, M.A.,
Chairman of the Peace Negotiations Committee.

"The President suggests that an early occasion be sought to call out from all the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guarantee against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future, as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

—Note communicated from President Wilson to all the Belligerents on December 20th, 1916.

The howl of abusive misrepresentation with which the Allied Press greeted this statesmanlike utterance of a great statesman must have induced in many thoughtful people hitherto friendly to the "Cause of the Allies" some grave doubts as to the changes which would appear to be coming over that "Cause." We here know very well that our blackguard Press grossly misrepresents the people; but the mass of decent feeling tends, unfortunately, to pass over the most revolting travesty of itself in disgusted and contemptuous silence, forgetting that these travesties go abroad, not only to belligerent, but to neutral countries, and are taken as portraits of our people. Many thousands of British people have felt the deepest shame at the vulgar, shallow and ignorant comments which, through the capitalist Press, have been allowed to go forth as the answer of what should be a great nation to the heart-searching question put to them by the great head of a great Democracy, speaking, as he does, with all the authority of a recent vote of confidence from his people. But our shame is increased and made into a torturing anxiety when we realise that every facility is given by the Government for the transmission abroad of newspapers of that type, while those of a more civilised kind are restricted. Men and women who are willing to go abroad and tell the neutrals something of what they know of decent feeling are now refused passports. Documents going to neutral countries are searched and held up. So that when educated neutrals come over to Great Britain and go about among the people, they exclaim in perpetual amazement: "We did not know this in our country. We did not know how many reasonable people there were over here. Your newspapers seem to us quite mad, but the people appear sane by comparison."

Those of us who go about a great deal are aware of this abiding sanity in great masses of the people, especially among the workers. But the difficulty comes when we try to make it articulate and effective before it is too late. We have to oppose the most tremendously rich, well organised and ingenious machine for the manufacture of bogus "public opinion" and for the suppression and distortion of genuine opinion. It is the mass of the people who have this cruel task imposed upon them: a task to be performed by poverty pitted against wealth; disorganisation against iron control; simplicity against an ingenuity elaborately devised to cause the maximum of misrepresentation with the minimum of palpable lying. Papers of this type have thoroughly learnt the lesson that

"A truth that's told with bad intent
Beats all the lies you can invent."

But of course they don't stick at lies, if these come handy, and their contempt for the people is so profound that there is scarcely a lie so gross that they will not tell it, if it suits them.

Does this contempt not move us at all? Those who have any imagination can hear the derisive laughter of the nations of the world when they read what is written in the name of England. Is it nothing to us? Has it indeed nothing of danger in it, as well as of deep humiliation? This contempt of the Press for the people reflects, after all, the contempt of the Government for the people. Have we quite realised yet what was revealed of the attitude of the Government which put its appeal to the patriotism of British people into the hands of—not a teacher; not a prophet; not a statesman; but—a great advertising expert? We are not fit to know what we are fighting for. We are not fit to know what the war is costing us in irrecoverable youth and genius; in love and faith and goodwill destroyed. We are given "Pink Pills for Pale People." We are told "Your King and Country want you," but we are not told what for. Conscripted, muzzled, blinded, the people is being led none knows where.

"These masters of thee mindless
That wear thee out of mind,
These children of thee kindless
That use thee out of kind,
Whose hands strew gold before thee and contempt behind;
Who have turned thy name to laughter,
Thy sea-like sounded name . . ."

How long will the people of England bear to be mocked before the world by these usurpers?

FRIENDS ARE ASKED TO RALLY IN FORCE TO THE VICTORIA PARK PEACE MEETING ON JANUARY 21st.

Get the Peace Negotiations Resolution passed:

The undersigned urge His Majesty's Government to seek the earliest opportunity of promoting negotiations with the object of securing a just and lasting Peace.

THE QUEER ISLANDERS: By Otto McFeely

"Well, where have you been this time?" I said to the Judge, as we settled ourselves in the comfortable Royal Hotel. Howard, too, was looking forward to an interesting story. We knew well that when the Judge travelled he found adventure in the most unlooked-for places, and this time his reserved manner indicated to our experienced eye that he had something more than usually good. The story of the strangest people that has ever been written was imparted to us. I shall not burden the reader with all our questions as he proceeded, but will tell the tale directly. I may say that Judge Neil has gone over this manuscript, and this story is correct in every particular as follows:

THE QUEER ISLANDERS.

A Story told by Judge Henry Neil.

Eight months ago I left for a trip around the world, intending to see the people at war, and to study its effect in all countries. We sailed from San Francisco, as I intended to approach Europe by way of Asia. We had made the first lap of our journey, and were well on our way to Tokyo when we encountered the "Hans Fritz," the war vessel which made such startling naval history in the early part of the war. There were but few passengers aboard, and the war vessel was able to take us all before sinking the "Sancto," the tramp on which we sailed. The naval men were as generous and kind as their means permitted, and we fared very well until we were forced to fly before the enemy, and found ourselves far south in waters that are seldom frequented by ships. We ran short of food and water. When the ship struck a rock in the uncharted sea we were not sorry to leave such an unhappy vessel. I found myself in a boat with the captain, Samuel Hands, and six sailors. We wandered about for nearly a week, and were on the verge of starvation when we sighted an island. We made for the place, and there it was I found the most remarkable people and the most immoral conditions that the world has ever produced. So novel were the customs of the island people and so contrary to our own noble institutions that I must tell of them in detail. The abnormal sex relations and form of government we found there grew out of a petty war between the island we landed upon and another similar country eighty miles distant. Their little war had ended in exhaustion.

Captain Hands did not know where we were when we sighted the islands, and we might have been there yet had it not been for the war, which drove a ship to the same seas, and we were rescued. In this island and its neighbour, which we named the Isles of Feminism, we found the people friendly and prosperous, and might have spent the remainder of our lives there very happily.

We skirted the shores, and soon met a small sailing vessel filled with boys and girls. They were happy and healthy, and to our surprise spoke excellent English. The islands had been at one time under the influence of England and its missionaries, but for forty years had been entirely cut off from the world. The people before the war were thoroughgoing Christians, and to this day they call themselves Christians and preach many of the doctrines of Jesus. The boys and girls towed us to a beautiful harbour, and we landed in as clean and as happy a place as it has ever been my fortune to visit. The impression is the same as one gets upon first visiting an international exposition. But underneath this appearance were conditions which would be considered dangerous by Christian people.

We were taken to a comfortable frame house, adorned with handicraft articles and utensils which were amazingly comfortable and enjoyable. The people wore clothing of cotton and wool, designed somewhat after styles of their own, which appeared to me to be unusually fine. We observed that there were no stores or other of the usual evidences of commerce one finds in a seaport.

We were soon made comfortable, and exchanged our salt-covered clothing for the native garments and found them satisfactory in every way. As we went about the little city our amazement grew, as there were many things we could not explain. I might spend a month in relating stories of this island and how commodities were produced and distributed, but I must begin at the beginning.

In 1860 this was an orthodox Christian island, and was engaged in trade. Missionaries had come to teach the people, of whom there were about 5,000, and tobacco and whiskey were introduced. The people were enriched by trade, and they had many disputes with their neighbours on the other island.

Each island armed itself, Europe supplying firearms and ammunition. They even made little war vessels, and finally "the day" came. The war seas were coloured with the blood of the people, and on land they contended, first one being successful, and then the other. Both islands suffered from invasion, and homes and other buildings were burned. The war continued for five years, and stopped only when both islands lay prostrate, neither being able to continue.

When the war was over, our island was without a single missionary or European, but on the other island a squad of traders and a missionary and his family had survived. This accounts for the difference in the two islands immediately following the war.

In our island the people took up their task of living without the assistance of God's chosen disciples from England. Nearly all the young men had been killed off, and under the marriage customs of that time, the same as in England and the United States, most of the women were barred for ever from the experience of romantic love and from the joys of maternity, but they had equal suffrage.

The few young men were married quickly, and settled down to domesticity with one wife, one home and their own children in accordance with God's great plan.

All would have been well had it not been for the large number of single women, who, seeing themselves headed for old maidenhood, revolted. They were in the majority, so the young women had no difficulty in capturing all official positions.

These young voting Amazons appeared to be animated with a terrible purpose, perhaps a philosopher might call it the Life Force. Whatever it was it made them powerful, and they set up a social and industrial and religious system, the like of which is not equalled elsewhere on earth. Of course, this was not done in a short time; it took years. They had learned democracy, and they worked their will in a democratic way, with majority rule. The women were ten times the number of men, and they could carry every election.

The Christian way was tried for a time. Men directed affairs, and the women were put to work catching fish, cutting wood, weaving cloth, digging metals and other heavy work. Their patriotism was appealed to, and they were urged to make sacrifies for their country. They did, but they grew tired of the grind without love, lovers or children, and the poverty was painful.

They held meetings, and decided that every woman should have a lover if she could win him. They preserved the legal Christian marriage custom, but made laws permitting any man to take one State wife. Those who adhered to the Christian standard opposed this, but they were powerless in the face of the relentless women, and the new programme went into effect.

They adopted laws which prevented any able-bodied adult from living without productive labour. They made it impossible for anyone to profit by mere ownership, and provided that everyone should have all he could use so far as the products of land and labour would go.

Man being naturally predatory, the new State wife soon won their approval, and the only objectors who held out to the last were the women living in Christian wedlock with their husbands and children.

It was provided that when a man took a State wife she was to live in her own home, and he was to visit her and her children only upon her special invitation. The man had no rights whatever in the home of his State wife; thus he could continue to spend his evenings at home with his own Christian wife and children.

Men soon began to take State wives. Naturally the largest and strongest and handsomest men found it easier to obtain State wives. The women favoured also those who were good-natured, kindly and of honest and sincere purpose. The loafers, triflers and physical weaklings found it impossible to get State wives at all.

There were certain women, of course, less

(Continued on Page 647.)

THE QUEER ISLANDERS.

(Continued from Page 647.)

attractive, having physical defects, quarrelsome dispositions and of no moral strength. These women had few children. Within ten years the island had as many people as ever, and the rising generation was stronger, healthier and more energetic than had ever been the case before, but the noble institution of Christian marriage had received a hard blow, and the Christian family, with father quarrelling with mother and the children night after night and Sunday after Sunday was gone.

As the men had no power over their State wives, and as the State's wives drew all their income from the State, they were under no obligation to the men.

Men were the heads of their Christian homes as of old, and could direct their Christian wives, who were dependent upon them for their living, the Christian wife receiving all her sustenance from the income of the husband, and when he died or for any other reason was unable to support his Christian family, they were sent to the poor farm, while the State wife had a regular income for life from the State funds.

When the new conditions had prevailed for eighteen years, the girls, because of the inconstancy of the income, refused to become Christian wives and arranged with their young lovers to become State wives. They had been so demoralised that they did not care to have a man around the house all the time, quarrelling with them and bossing the children.

The oldest profession in the world flourished before the war in the island, as elsewhere, but the State wife idea had the effect of abolishing the wanton woman who sold her body. I suppose it was because women desire more than anything else to be loved and to have children as the product of romantic affection.

The State wife plan made it possible, respectable and lawful for nearly every woman to have a home of her own and the care and companionship of her own children, without interference.

The compensation given to State wives was according to the number of children they had, and the most honoured and respected women of the country were those who had many children. Women with five were the rule. The children took the name of their mother.

Oddly enough, paternal responsibility was not destroyed by the new system, as there was no conflict over the authority over the children in the State home—the mother ruled alone. Men appeared to assume a paternal attitude towards all children, and a custom similar to our boy scouts grew up. Men could be seen with twenty or thirty boys walking about and talking just as our scoutmasters lead troops of boys. The men were as proud of the sons of other men as they were of their own. Women of the island are still more attached to their own children than to those of other women, and that is about the only remnant of the Christian family that we found.

The Christian wives were nearly all gone when we landed on the island, and none of the girls would consent to become Christian wives. As they did not desire to have their welfare and the welfare of their children bound up with any one man, they preferred to depend upon all men for their material needs, and they were so degraded from the Christian standard that they found it pleasanter to have the father of their children come to the house always as a lover. The old noble custom of having him always around had become distasteful to these abnormal creatures. There were no bachelors and no old maids in this island, and there were no hired girls, as the women had developed a co-operative system which made light work of all the domestic duties which are such a drudgery in England and America.

The island flourished materially. The people in the years since the war had grown rich beyond the dreams of avarice. Many new ideas had been developed here, and they had marvellous machinery for productive purposes, and their airships and flying machines excel ours. The men produced so so much with their very efficient machinery that the Government asked each person to use more food and raiment and to live in better houses in order to use up the supplies, as they did not ship any of their products to any other country as long as anyone on the island could use it.

They have one fear growing out of their benighted moral condition. They fear an invasion of Christian missionaries, and we had to assure them that we would not do any preaching of Christian morality while we were in the island!

THE OTHER ISLAND.

The other island preserved its Christian moral virtues for twenty years after the war. Few children were born, and the whole nation was dying out until the Radical women of the Feminine Isle went over and by force placed their unmoral unchristian system in force on the land of their former enemy. With the decay of Christian morality and the abolition of the fundamental rights of private property the enemy island began to increase in material wealth and in children. Friendly relations now exist, and the indications are that there will never be another war, as the women see no need of fighting. They have developed a system which has abolished the cause of war!

ADULT SUFFRAGE

A demonstration will be held in the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London, on Saturday, February 10th, 1917, at 3 p.m. (doors open at 2.30), to demand votes for all men and women, so that soldiers, sailors and women shall not be excluded from the Parliamentary register. Chair: The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Lincoln. Speakers: The Right Hon. Sir John Simon, M.P., Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., Miss Mary Macarthur, Councillor Margaret Ashton, and Mrs. Barton. Tickets: Numbered and reserved, 2s. 6d.; reserved, 1s. and 3d. (war tax included). Apply to the Secretary, National Council for Adult Suffrage, 27 Chancery Lane, London, E.C.; or to the Secretary, Women's Co-operative Guild, 28 Church Row, Hampstead, London, N.W.; the Secretary, Workers' Suffrage Federation, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.; the Secretary, National Women's Labour League, 1 Victoria Street, S.W.; the Secretary, Women's International League, 12 Little College Street, Westminster, S.W.

A WOMAN'S CORPS

Mr. Prothero, President of the Board of Agriculture, in addressing the Herefordshire War Agricultural Committee, suggested that a corps of women workers should be enrolled under the same conditions as soldiers, paid in the same way, and billeted where they were required. He said he had "given the idea" to the Food Controller, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, "to use as he liked"! Then he went on to speak of motor ploughs. They are much the same to him, no doubt; but not, of course, to women.

* * * *

Licences are beginning to be issued to enable women to be employed at night in bakeries. New bread is said to be both extravagant and indigestible. Why bake at night? Why not let the bakers work during reasonable hours, like other people?

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The following Pamphlets can be obtained free of charge from Mr. Arnold Lupton, of 7 Victoria Street, London.

1. "VOLUNTARY versus COMPULSORY SERVICE." (showing the phenomenal success of Voluntaryism and the folly of Compulsion.)
2. "PARLIAMENT," Sept. 15th and 16th, 1915. (Debate on Conscription.)
3. "RECRUITS FOR THE ARMY." (Showing Inequality of Sacrifice.)
4. "THE WAR AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT." (Arnold Lupton and Henri Lambert.)
5. (Withdrawn).
6. "MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES." (Showing the enormous number of British Volunteers and the object of the Conscriptionists simply to save payment of fair wages.)
7. "ARE YOU IN FAVOUR OF CONSCRIPTION?" (A leaflet.)
8. "THE LIMITED CONSCRIPTION BILL." (Showing wages paid to Colonial soldiers and that the payment of adequate wages to English soldiers will take no money from the nation.)
9. "THE ARMY"—Lord Derby's Report. (Showing that the shirkers do not exist and that Lord Derby has calculated upon 900,000 men who never existed.)
10. "THE LABOURING CLASSES." (Conscription.) Lessons from history. Showing how the Labouring Classes have been raided.
11. "VACCINATION—INOCULATION." (Showing the serious injury done to our armies by these processes.)
12. "VACCINATION AND THE STATE." 84-page booklet by Arnold Lupton. (Proving beyond possibility of contradiction the uselessness and danger of Vaccination.)
13. "LIFE'S PRIMAL ARCHITECTS," by E. D. Hume. An essay on the work of Professor Bechamp showing the fundamental errors of Pasteur on which his inoculations are based.
14. "HOW TO HASTEN THE VICTORY OF THE ALLIES." (Showing that whilst the War is vigorously pressed, the enemy should be informed that we only seek Peace and not Vengeance.
15. "DOES INOCULATION PROTECT AGAINST TYPHOID FEVER?" by Walter R. Hadwen, M.D., J.P.

Leaflets showing Official Authority for Statements that Vaccination and Inoculation are not legally compulsory.

Leaflet showing danger of inoculation.

16. "PERSONAL RIGHT." An Address by Arnold Lupton to the Personal Rights Association, showing the gradual development and advance of the Doctrine of Personal Rights—Liberty versus Slavery.
17. "DRUNKENNESS." Practical suggestions tending towards its reduction, by Arnold Lupton.
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The action taken by the Joint Board, and the "Statement" issued by the Labour Party, which are referred to in the following pages, deserve a reply. Here it is. It is addressed to the entire Labour, Trade Union. and Socialist organisations of Great Britain. Study it well, and discuss it in your Societies, for the future well-being of the Working-Class Movement depends upon your verdict.

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SOCIALISM AND WAR

By P. J. Dollan.

The Scottish I. L. P. branches, at their annual delegate conference at the week-end, discussed the attitude of Socialism towards War, and by 48 votes to 17 adopted the following resolution :—

"This Conference urges the Socialist Parties of all nations to oppose all wars entered into by their Governments, irrespective of the declared object of the war; and instructs the I.L.P. to bring forward this policy for adoption at the next International Socialist Conference."

The minority of 17 wished to limit the Socialist opposition to wars entered into by "capitalist Governments," thereby leaving it open to Socialists to participate in wars which might be engaged in by "Socialist" Governments. The minority argued an apparently good case; but failed to convince the majority that war, even under a Socialist Government, and waged for a worthy cause, could be justified. The majority, in the opinion of the writer, were right : war under all circumstances and carried on by even the most democratic of Governments is in itself wrong, and cannot ennoble any cause, no matter how worthy the object may be. War is either good or evil, and must be considered in that light. Militarists of all kinds support war because they believe it may produce good or right a wrong or wrongs. Pacifists oppose war because it is evil, and therefore, being evil, cannot produce good or right a wrong. Wheat cannot be harvested where only thistles have been planted. Experience of the present War and history teaches us that the Pacifists are right and the militarists wrong.

Hitherto Socialists have limited their organised opposition to "aggressive" wars, and have always made it obvious to their respective Governments that they would support a "defensive" war. Consequently, when the Governments of Europe declared war in August, 1914, all they had to do to win the support of Socialists in the various countries was to convince them that the war was a "defensive" war. This convincing was easily accomplished in view of the feverish state of public opinion which then prevailed, and the Socialists rallied to the call of war, deluded into believing that it was their duty to take part in a conflict which for each and all of their countries was a war of defence! Thus we have had the anomaly of millions of Socialists slaying each other in the sacred cause of national defence! Belgian Socialists have admitted German Socialists were right in arming to protect their Fatherland from the menace of Russia; German Socialists have admitted that the Socialists of France and Belgium were right in arming to resist the invader; British Socialists have claimed they were right in arming to smash the domination of their German "comrades" which was aimed at their comfort and prosperity. It is an amazing and tragic tangle which might have been foreseen by people of common sense who would have know that invariably a war of defence becomes a war of aggression.

The powerful States involved in the present War have all proclaimed their defensive and humanitarian motives in taking part in the conflict, which for each and all of them is a war to free mankind from the grip of militarism and the menace of aggression! Yet it is common knowledge that Peace could have been effected months ago had it not been for the aggressive objects pursued by the respective Governments in secret and unknown to their peoples. Still the official Socialist element in each warring country continues to hug to its breast the delusion that this is a war of defence. Blinded by the delusion, the Socialists continue to support a war, the prolongation of which, even by a day, menaces the welfare of civilisation and hinders the realisation of Socialism. How different might Europe have been if Socialists had never compromised with war, but had stood out boldly as uncompromising opponents who would not participate in it under any circumstances. The Governments of Europe would have been chary about pursuing a policy of preparation for war if they had known that the Socialists in all countries would decline to take part in war. If there had been four million men Quakers in Europe instead of four million Socialists believing in a war of defence, there would have been no war.

It is strange to find Socialists who believe that war is a product of Capitalism compromising with war. They teach that poverty, ignorance, slums, and the other evils of society can only be finally eradicated when Capitalism is abolished. Capitalism will never be abolished while we tolerate its evil products which are thorns in the feet of Socialism. If Socialists are serious in their desire to destroy militarism they must cease to assist it. Socalism has nothing to gain from war, but it has much to lose. And if the Socialists of Europe intend to reconstruct their ruined International, they must see that one of its foundation principles is absolute loyalty to Peace as a great aid towards Social-Democracy. The decision of the Scottish Socialists to oppose "all wars" is to be welcomed as a valuable contribution to the Socialist faith, and we trust our Scottish comrades will spare no effort to impart their unswerving belief in Peace to the trade unionists and Labourists whom they influence so greatly in other questions. Socialism without Peace would simply be a tragedy in human development.

It is argued by those who maintain that Socialists should limit their opposition to war that the acceptance of absolute opposition might one day endanger a Socialist State. When that emergency arises, which is doubtful, the people of the time will meet it. The peoples of the world are no longer barbarians seeking war for the glory of war, and the establishment of a Socialist State will be an example for good to other peoples instead of an incentive to evil. Moreover, as adherents are gained to the doctrine of absolute opposition to all wars, even capitalist Governments will be obliged to accommodate the virile and growing Pacifism of the peoples by developing other and better methods than force of settling disputes between nations. Only when we ourselves pin our feet firmly on the rock of Peace can we hope to convince others that war is inhuman and unnecessary to mankind.

THE WOMAN'S PARTY

A REPLY TO "OMNIFRAGE."

Dear Editor,—In the evolution of Progress it is necessary to allow all shades of opinion and freedom of expression. I am pleased to see the Woman's Dreadnought working upon these lines. "Omnifrage" in the Christmas number deals with a few important points which need clearing up. The first point raised is the necessity of the unification of all women's organisations into a Woman's Party. The writer says: "You can have your Conservative, Liberal, Socialist and any other women's party that you choose later on," &c. Then in finishing the notes from the Midlands the writer says: "This is an appeal to the women of the Midland counties to better themselves, to organise and form branches of the W.S.F." The first point is: Why do different women's organisations exist? Because they all have different aims and objects. The W.S.F. is the only suffrage* organisation which stands for Adult Suffrage. Mind what I say, the only *suffrage* organisation. There are the Socialistic organisations which stood for complete Human Enfranchisement long before the suffrage movement was active. Karl Marx in "Das Kapital" wrote about the urgent necessity of Adult Suffrage as a *means* whereby the working classes can get their emancipation. Marx taught the need for the political weapon, not as the only weapon, but as one of the weapons for the gaining of freedom from the chains of Capitalism and Wage Slavery. Hyndman, William Morris, Keir Hardie, Bebel, Eugene V. Debs, Jim Connolly, Walter Crane, Jean Jaurés, Vandervelde, Camille Huysmans, Karl Kautsky, Liebknecht, &c., all Socialists who worked for Adult Suffrage as one of the means of the gaining of complete emancipation of men and women long before the suffrage movement. The writer, in asking for the unification of policy and the amalgamation of Liberal, Conservative and Socialist bodies is absolutely contradicting himself. Joseph McCabe, in "Woman in Political Evolution," says: "The psychology of the Conservative or Liberal who approves of the Primrose League or the Women's Liberal Federation, and the employment of women at elections, yet when these ladies ask for the Vote murmurs that their place is the home is a thing too turbid or too insincere for analysis." He doesn't say the Socialist organisations oppose Woman's Suffrage, but only the Conservative and Liberal Parties. Study the history of all the political and religious parties in the world and you will see that all political parties and religious parties, except the Socialists and the Secularists or Positivists, are opposed to Votes for Women. Wherever you find the woman's position placed equal to that of man there you will find the Socialist movement more progressive. Seeing that the Liberal and Conservative Parties are opposed to the Vote, how can we have amalgamation? There are a few individual Liberal and Conservatives in favour of the Vote, but there are hardly any who believe in Adult Suffrage. The majority of Liberal and Conservative women do not believe in Adult Suffrage. The majority of Socialists do believe in Adult Suffrage. In "Socialism and Marriage," by Guy Aldred, this is what he says about Adult Suffrage: "In order to remove the anomalies, some middle-class women have been urging on the State their right to vote, and thus assist in the making of the laws that govern them. Superficially, the claim is incontrovertible. There is no reason why woman should not enjoy the same social rights as man. If men boast of property franchise, so should women. If a small set of male parasites vote, not according to their intelligence, but in ratio to the houses they own, logically a select clique of female parasites should be entitled to the same privileges. If a man can sit in the House of Pretence, woman can also. The sexes are equal in honour and dishonour.

"The property male vote is not the enfranchisement of men. The limited equal enfranchisement of woman is not suffrage for women. To pretend so is ridiculous. Short of out-and-out Adult Suffrage, woman suffrage is impossible.

"Whilst one is securing the part, one can be realising the whole. It is as easy to win Adult Suffrage as its palliative, Woman Suffrage. The more loudly you demand the former, the more likely you will get the latter.

"Adult Suffrage, in its turn, is only a palliation, the shadow of political power which will be granted one day to prevent the surrender of the substance of economic power. There is a futility in striving for anything short of Socialism; and the suffrage movement embodies that futility."

You must at once realise that Socialism is the only hope for the emancipation of all men and women, and the Vote is the means whereby we can help to obtain Socialism. Take the other women's organisations, like the W.S.P.U. and the Women's International League, and you will find they differ in policy very greatly from that of the W.S.F. The W.S.F. is a Pacifist organisation, and the W.S.P.U. is a pro-War party. Imagine these two organisations joining (which is impossible); instead of getting unity you will only cause friction and ill-feeling. The W.S.P.U. is bitterly opposed to the W.S.F. on the War policy. Now, the Women's International League, and I say that from a logical point of view; the W.S.F. is far more international than the W.I.L. Look at their membership form and it reads thus: "(a) Membership shall be open to *women* who are *British* subjects, who accept the above object, whose purpose it is to work for its accomplishment, &c." Now, Bebel, in his excellent work on woman, says: "The woman's question is the man's question, for in the emancipation of the woman you are working for the emancipation of the man." In words which display the same meaning, Mazzini, the apostle of woman's freedom, declared:

"In the sight of God and the Father there is neither man nor woman. There is only the human being, that being in whom, whether the form be male or female, those characteristics which distinguish humanity from the brute creation are united—namely, the social tendency and the capacity for education and progress. Wheresoever these characteristics exist, the human nature is revealed, and thence perfect equality, both of rights and of duties.

"Like two distinct branches springing from the same trunk, and man and woman are varieties springing from the common basis—Humanity. There is no inequality between them, but even as is often the case among men, diversity of tendency and of special vocation. Are two notes of the same musical chord unequal or of different nature? Man and woman are the two notes without which the human chord is impossible."

Seeing that man is one part of the sex and woman is the other, and united they form the completion of the whole sex, why is the membership only open to women? Then how can it call itself international, when it only appeals to British women? The W.S.F. is open to all men and women of any nationality. The Jewish Social-Democratic Party has joined with the British Socialist Party. Why? Because their aims and objects are the same. If you want unification of policy, you must not unite organisations with different ideas, but unite with organisations whose aims and objects are the same. I should like to see the W.S.F. joining otgether with the B.S.P. and I.L.P., and thereby causing a unity in ideas. Lastly, I wish to ask our writer to answer this point: is it a question of sex oppression or class oppression? Remember, we are not oppressed as men or women, neither as French, Russians, Germans, Americans, &c. Nor are we oppressed as Christians, or Jews, or Buddhists, or black, white or yellow people. We are oppressed internationally as a working class by a capitalist class. Karl Marx said: "Workers of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to win."

Yours for the Cause of Social-Democracy,
Comrade George J. Cohen.

* Other Societies have since joined us in the demand for Adult Suffrage.

A HUNGRY CHRISTMAS

THE PLIGHT OF "A GALLIPOLI HERO."

We are glad to announce that through the exposure in the Woman's Dreadnought and the efforts of the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives, the Admiralty is reinquiring into the case, and the Local War Pensions Committee has been induced to reverse its previous decision and to make a grant of 35s. a week. For full particulars of the League of Rights, write to Mrs. Minnie Lansbury at 400 Old Ford Road, E.

DO NOT FAIL TO COME TO OUR CHANDOS HALL "AT HOMES" WHICH START THIS SATURDAY!

Mr. A. Fenner Brockway, Editor of the "Labour Leader," now undergoing a term of imprisonment as a conscientious objectors in Wormwood Scrubs, wrote, whilst awaiting arrest, an interesting and informative account of the relations of Socialism to the Pacifist movement. The book will be published shortly by the National Labour Press under the title of "Socialism for Pacifists," and will be sold at the price of 6d.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE.

MEMORIAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

TEXT:—The undersigned urges His Majesty's Government to seek the earliest opportunity of promoting negotiations with the object of securing a just and lasting Peace.

Wanted Immediately! **1,000 members and adherents of the Workers' Suffrage Federation**

1. To secure *at least* 25 signatures each.
2. To distribute literature from house to house, and at workshops, churches, clubs, meetings,
3. To see that every Society, Organisation and Council is given an opportunity of endorsing the Text of the Memorial,
4. To write to the Prime Minister and leading members of the Government and Opposition and to the local M.P.s urging the necessity of responding to the German and American notes.
5. To arrange meetings with the object of influencing public opinion whenever and wherever possible.

FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED. Hon. Treasurer, CHARLES RODEN BUXTON, Esq.

For forms, literature, speakers and information write to the Hon. Secretary, Rev. HERBERT DUNNICO, 47 New Broad Street, E.C.

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LONDON MEETINGS.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13th.
Roman Road, Bow, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 11 a.m., Miss Price.
Market behind Army and Navy Stores, S.W., 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.
Hague Street (Bethnal Green), 3 p.m., Miss Price.
Chandos Hall, W.C., 3.30 p.m., At Home.
Bow Baths, 8 p.m., Social and Dance.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14th.
Hyde Park, 12 (noon), Mrs. Boyce.
Osborn Street (Whitechapel), 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Cressall, Miss Lynch.
Flagstaff, Hampstead, 11.30 a.m., MrMs. Walker.
The Grove, Strafford, 11.30 a.m., Joint Meeting with N.C.F., Mrs. Bouvier.
Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Peace Conference.

MONDAY, JANUARY 15th.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., General Meeting.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16th.
White Cross Street, Old Street, 1 p.m., Miss Price.
Deptford Broadway, 1 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17th.
Hoxton, 12 (noon), Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Boyce.
53 St. Leonard's Street (Bromley), 2 p.m., Mrs. Nellie Best.
40 Clifton Gardens (Maida Vale), 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Poplar Women's Hall (20 Railway Street), 8.15 p.m., Mr. John Scurr, Lecture; Discussion.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18th.
Devons Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Lynch.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19th.
Willesden Green, 12 (noon), Mrs. Walker, Miss Lynch.
Lewisham Market Place, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20th.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 11 a.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
Market behind Army and Navy Stores, S.W., 12 (noon), Mrs. Walker.
Bonner Street, Green Street, 2 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Lecture.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

LONDON.

Barking.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.
Bow.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Secretary: Miss Price. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending January 6th, 944. Miss O'Brien, 300; Mrs. Holloway, 236; Miss Harriet, 100; Miss Smyth, 50; Miss Mackay, 40; Miss Lagading, 25; Miss Bush, 24; Miss Price, 18. General, 151.
Bromley.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood.
Canning Town.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.
Enfield and Edmonton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.
Leyton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road.
Poplar.—20 Railway Street, E.
Tidal Basin.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, DREADNOUGHT sales, 36.
St. Pancras.—Hon. Sec.; Mrs. Redgrove, 191 Camden Road, N.W.
Willesden.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Sheppard, 141 Villiers Road.

PROVINCES.

Birmingham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley.
Four fortnightly leetures will be held in Stirchley Institute at 7.30 p.m., January 17th, 31st and February 14th. Subject: Internationalism. Speaker: Miss Haly.
Bradford.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace.
Brynmawr and Nantyglo.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.
Burnley.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Mrs. Mortimer Holden, The Nurseries, Accrington.
Chester-le-Street.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Faulkner, 14 Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Durham.
Chopwell.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Bell, 62 Forth Street.—As the result of a meeting held on December 17th, at which Miss C. Ellis was the principal speaker, a branch of the W.S.F. was formed, 21 members enrolled, and Mrs. Bell was elected Hon. Secretary; Mrs. Jones, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs. Guttridge, President; Mrs. Colton and Mrs. Bolton, Vice-Presidents. Fortnightly meetings are to be held to discuss such books as "Woman and Economics," "Woman and Labour," etc. Two successful meetings have already been held.
Cornsay and Quebec.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Miss Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross. Branch meeting, Monday at 197 High Street, Cornsay.
Doncaster.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Kent, 32 St. Sepulchre Gate.
Durham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross.
Ferryhill.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank.
Leeds.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley.
Leicester.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hill, 12 Sweetbriar Road.
Medomsley.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham.
Portsmouth.—Hon. Sec.: Miss L. Whitehead, 6 Northumberland Road, Southsea.
Prudhoe-on-Tyne.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parks, 4 Riding Terrace, Mickley Square.
Sheffield.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street. Members' meetings are held every Friday evening at Wentworth Café, 7.30 p.m.
Southampton.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helsby, 77 Tennyson Road.
York: Huddersfield, Rotherham, Wakefield.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, c/o Mrs. Gee, 15 Springwood Terrace, Huddersfield.

SCOTLAND.

Glasgow.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street. Branch meets Fridays at Charing Cross Halls.

TO SCOTTISH SYMPATHISERS.

Our Glasgow Secretary, Mr. L. M. Smith, 126 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, will be pleased to hear as to the prospects of forming a branch in any town.

W.S.F. EVENTS OF THE WEEK

Most interesting lectures have been arranged for the ensuing season, and members and friends are asked to make these fixtures known amongst their friends. The Chandos Hall At Homes will be on Saturday afternoons, lectures and concerts at the Bow Women's Hall on Sunday evenings, and the lectures at Poplar Women's Hall, 20 Railway Street, on Wednesday evenings.

Admission free. All are welcome!

CHANDOS HALL "AT HOME," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand).—To-day (Saturday), at 3.30 p.m.: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook"; Mr. Shapurji-Saklatvala, "A Federated Empire and India." Chair: Miss Lynch.

To-night, New Year Dance at Bow Baths, Roman Road, at 8 p.m. Tickets, 6d., from 400 Old Ford Road. Bring all your friends. Take No. 8 'Bus.

General Meeting of the London Section of W.S.F. on Monday, 15th, 8 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road. All members are urged to come.

Mr. John Scurr will lecture at 20 Railway Street, Poplar, on Wednesday, January 17th, at 8.15 p.m.

CHANDOS HALL "AT HOME," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand).—Saturday, January 20th, 3.30 p.m.: Miss Anna Martin, "The Mothers' Grievance"; Mr. T. S. Attlee (B.S.P.), "Equality." Chair, Mrs. Drake.

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road.—Sunday, January 21st, at 6 p.m.: Lecture on "England in 1815: The Problem of Peace Then," Miss M. W. Buer. Chair, Mrs. Bouvier.

EAST LONDON PEACE CAMPAIGN.

On Sunday last a huge crowd assembled at the W.S.F. Peace meeting in Victoria Park. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst had lost her voice, but Mrs. Drake and Miss Lynch carried the meeting through with triumphant success in spite of repeated attempts to break it up. An excellent meeting was held in conjunction with the Poplar I.L.P. at the Dock Gates. Miss Price and Mr. Attlee were the speakers. The other meetings of the week have been successful and well attended.

* * * *

A delegate conference of Labour, Socialist, Pacifist, and kindred bodies will be held on Saturday next at 400 Old Ford Road to make further plans. The speakers are the Rev. Herbert Dunnico, Mr. Edgar Lansbury, Dr. Alfred Salter, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

* * * *

We anxiously appeal for help in our open-air campaign. Friends are asked to come to the meetings and stand by the speakers to sell and distribute literature and to get signatures to the Peace Memorial. More speakers are also wanted. Please send offers of help to Mrs. Bouvier, our meetings Secretary.

FROM THE FRONT

"It's a tragic pity that people at home don't understand conditions out here. I don't intend giving you a list of details, because it wouldn't do any good, and, besides, you'd never understand. It's a life absolutely opposed to every concept of life you have. Can you conceive the exquisite comfort of two blankets and a wooden floor, with rats running over you in your sleep? No; but I can! The fools and dolts who prate about *fighting to a finish* ought to come out here. They'd learn surprising things."—*From a Private in France, December 31st, 1916.*

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"The New Statesman," in its Editorial Comments, says "that after the reply of the Allies to President Wilson peace discussion will very quickly die down. And the subject will not be seriously revived, in the absence of decisive events until next autumn." Such smug complacency towards the slaughter of other people fills us with disgust. Let the Editor of the "New Statesman" betake himself to the trenches if he believes in the War!

W.S.F. Draw Competition on March 24th, 1917, in aid of the W.S.F., "Dreadnought," and Propaganda Fund. Prizes: 1st, Gentleman's Gold Watch; 2nd, an Alarm Clock; 3rd, Lady's or Gentleman's Umbrella; 4th, Bound Volume of "The Woman's Dreadnought." Entrance, 2d. Draw Secretary; Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin.

Clippings of material of all kinds (must measure at least 5 by 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

W.S.F. PAMPHLETS

PUBLISHED AT 400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.

"Mothers' Pensions"

An account of what ought properly to be called Child Pensions, as administered in 27 out of 48 States of America. Price 1d.; post free, 1½d. 9d. per dozen.

"The Birthrate."

Notes and Views on the Report of the National Birthrate Commission, by E. Sylvia Pankhurst. Price 1d; post free, 1½d. 9d. per dozen.

"The Execution of an East London Boy"

including his letters to his Mother. ½d. each; post free, 1d.

W.S.F. REPORT OF SOCIAL WORK IN 1915. PRICE 2d. ILLUSTRATED. Postage, ½d.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—Mrs. Palmer (half-yearly), £1; per Miss Burgess, £1; Miss H. E. Raisin (monthly), 10s.; Miss Marion Gibson, 10s.; Miss Ethel Lowy (monthly), 10s.; Mrs. Durant, 5s.; Miss M. D. Kemp (monthly), 4s.; Horace G. Alexander, Esq., 2s. 6d.; "A Friend" (per Mrs. Drake), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Workman (per "The Herald"), 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Brimley, 1s. COLLECTIONS: Roman Road and Osborn Street (two), 8s. 4½d.; Mrs. Boyce, 1s. 4½d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Mrs. Sanger, £10; Ernest Williams, Esq., £5; Auckland W.I.L., £1 10s. and proceeds of social, £3; James Leakey, Esq., £3 5s.; Portsmouth Branch, per Miss Whitehead, £2 2s.; Alfred Hicks, Esq., £1 15s. 6d.; Captain Arthur St. John, £1; Mrs. M. E. Manoin, £1; Richard Whitwell, Esq., 13s. 6d.; Erith I.L.P., 10s.; Miss Selby, 10s.; Mrs. Keeling, 5s.; Miss Moir, 5s.; Miss Dorothy Jewson, 5s.; Miss E. Sykes, 5s.; Ernest Stringer, Esq., 5s.; Miss S. W. Newsome (monthly), 1s.; Mrs. Osmond "In memory of Julia Hills," 1s.

MRS. WALKER'S FINE.—Miss Maude Royden, £2; Mrs. and Miss Casey, 5s.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Mrs. Singer (6s. weekly), £3 18s.; Mrs. Baillie Weaver (monthly), £2; per Miss Weir (monthly), £1 10s.; Mr. and Miss Kingston, £1 10s.; Contessa Tomasi Isolani (monthly), £1; Mrs. Richmond (10s. fortnightly), £1; Mrs. Usherwood, 12s.; Nurse Hebbes, 12s.; Miss Mabel Sennett, 10s.; Miss Margaret Smith, niece and nephew, 10s.; Jack Ellis, 6s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; Mrs. E. M. Morrison (monthly), 5s.; Mrs. Edger (2s. 6d. monthly), 5s.; Miss J. T. Drewry (monthly), 5s.; Miss Muriel Newton, 3s.; Miss Janet Barrowman, 2s. 6d.; Miss Mary Barrowman, 2s. 6d.; D. Wilkie, Esq., 2s. 6d.; Mr. Rooke, 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 10s. 11½d.; Mrs. Singer, £1 10s.; Misses Lagsding and Vine and Mrs. Bertram (two), £1 5s. 9½d.; Mothers at Bromley Clinic, 10s. 6d.; Miss Mackay, 2s. 6½d.; Clarence and Olga, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Baillie Weaver, 2s. 1d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss D. Henkel, Anon., Mrs. Boswell, Misses Gulland, Anon.

Members and Friends who are collecting in "Dreadnought" boxes are asked to send in collections before the end of January.

WANTED FOR THE BROMLEY CLINIC.

Dark curtains at our Mother and Infant Clinic at 53 St. Leonard's Street, for some of the windows which are at present painted. Painted windows look very dismal! Friends are asked either to send us the money for the curtain material, or if they prefer to give the material, will they write to Miss Pankhurst in regard to measurements, colour, &.?

* * * *

THE BOW CHOIR.

A singing class to form a choir is held every Wednesday evening at 7.15 p.m. at Bow Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Road. Mdlle. Espagne has kindly undertaken the tuition. All women are invited to join. Charge, 2d. each lesson.

MOTHERS AND BABIES

THE MOTHERS' ARMS,
438 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY-BY-BOW.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

WANTS.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain the nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woolen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Health Talks to Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

CAPABLE SALESWOMAN WANTED; good salary; commission.—Apply Toy Factory, 45 Norman Road, Bow. 'Phone: E 422.

WANTED, Secretarial Post in country; shorthand typist; good references.—Apply Box 20.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d. —Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

SOUTHEND; Furnished Apartments, 8 minutes from sea and train; or Furnished House conveniently situated.—Mr. Warr, 8 Hastings Road.

THE BEST NEW YEAR GIFT

Bound Volumes I and II of "Woman's Dreadnought now ready, price 6/6 each. To be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, London, E. Postage, 7d. extra.

Printed by the Blackfriars Press Ltd., 74 Swinton St., London, W.C. and Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, at their Offices 400 Old Ford Rd. Bow, E. Printed by T.U. labour in all departments (48 hour week), on Trade Union Made Paper